Support For sinclair

ZX81 - spectrum - RL

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1888 - 1588 - 2868 computers

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 1987

THE JOINT NEWSLETTER OF THE THREE TIMEX-SINCLAIR USER GROUPS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

EBZ#6

P#6

SUSTUG

GIF GRAPHICS DECODING-ENCODING NOW AVAILABLE TO SINCLAIR OL USERS

Bu Norm Lehfeldt

Programmer Don Thompson has once again come to the aid and rescue of Sinclair QL users.

He has released GIF decoding and encoding programs for this machine.

(For those who may not recall, GIF -- Graphics Interchange Format -- is a new protocol established by CompuServe as a means for the exchange of graphics screens among dis-similar compu-ters. A GIF file begins with a header which describes the size of the image that follows and the colors employed. The decoder must than adapt the image for display on the receiving computer.)

Don's program for accomplishing the complicated decoding task uses sophisticated algorithms that make mathmatic conversions of the pixel counts of images created on other computers so that their geometry is preserved on the QL screen. In addition the program contains a pallette of 64 stipples which greatly expand the color capabilites of the QL. In many cases, the displayed QL image is nearly indis-tinguisable for the original picture created on graphically more sophisticated machines.

At present, Don's programs are available to CompuServe subscribers in Data Library 6 of CLUB SIG for only the cost of the connect time necessary to download them.

Don stresses that it is important to read the accompanying DOC file before attempting to use the programs.

'FONTMAN' UARTES TYPE STYLES ON 2068 SCREEN AR PRINTER

Bu Horn Lehfeldt

'Font Manager,' Jack Dohaney's latest achievement is a program for creating, editing and print-int to screen or printer an end-less variety of type styles.

As supplied by Jack, the program includes two libraries of twenty fonts each. But the type design possibilities of the program are unlimited.

Once the program is loaded and running, a particular type font may be 'activated.' Subsequent may be 'activated.' Subsequent output to screen or printer will be in the font selected.

The key to the printing operation is a new printer driver using your printer's graphics mode for all printing. A fringe bene-fit of this scheme is that, for the first time, users of 80-co-lumn printers will be able to LPRINT and LLIST the full Timex-Sinclair character set.

Order 'FONTMAN' directly from: Jack Dohaney 390 Rutherford five. Redwood City, CA 94061

Or call Jack at (415) 367 7781 for further details.

Inside This Issue:

QWIKSORT - Courtney Du Bois' sub-routine for rapid sorting of large arrays on the 2068.

3-D WIRE-FRAME GRAPHICS - Tim Suenson's QL program for drawing and manipulating objects on the QL screen.

CLUB NEWS ----- NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

QWIKSORT - by Courtney Du Bois

The purpose of this algorithm is to sort a large array very quickly, using as little memory overhead as possible.

The goal of each pass is to place an element of the array in it's final position. While it does this, it also partitions the array into two subsets: those elements less than or equal to the sort key and those with values greater than the key. Each time the array is sub-divided, the larger is stacked and the other is processed. The process is repeated on each subset until all elements have been processed.

Consider this example:

42 23 74 11 65 58 94 36 99 87

Two index variables I and J with the values 1 and 10 are used. K(I) and K(J) are compared and if no exchange is necessary J is decremented by 1 and the process is repeated. When K(I) >= K(J), they are exchanged. 'I' is incremented by 1 and this processed until another change occurs.

The sequence of exchanges for placing 42 in it's final position where the numbers preceded by an asterisk are being compared is as follows:

11 65 58 94 36 99 #87 11 65 58 94 36 #99 87 11 65 58 94 #36 99 87 11 65 58 94 #42 99 87 *42 23 74 *42 74 74 23 242 36 #23 58 94 442 99 58 494 74 99 87 87 87 87 23 +74 11 65 42 11 65 23 *42 65 *58 42 23 +42 11 94 99 94 58 94 74 58 94 74 58 94 74 99 23 *42 11 +65 42 87 23 +42 +11 23 11 42 99 65 42 42 65

The original array has now been partitioned into two subsets: (36, 23, 11) and (65, 58, 94, 74, 99, 87).

Designed to be used as a subroutine, the program requires an array K and a variable N, where N = the number of elements in the array, as input. It begins by stacking the lower and upper boundaries of the entire array in the arrays L and U. T is the stack pointer. Lines 2040 through 2060 unstacks the boundaries of each unprocessed subset. Lines 3000 through 5000 partitions a subset. K saves the sort key. Lines 6000 through 6100 stacks the boundaries of the larger subset. Lines 10 through 60 are included for demonstration purposes.

This algorithm has two shortcomings:

- It is not appropriate for small arrays (say 10 elements or less).
- The worst case for this algorithm is when the array is already sorted.

A worthwhile enhancement to this program would be to check the difference of the subset boundaries at line 2065 and if it is less than or equal to 10, use another sorting method.

NOTE: The 'LN' in line 1004 is the matural logarithmic function. Enter, Function Z (shift and enter then press the Z key) to obtain it. The sort took 4 minutes on the PC and 8.5 minutes on the TIMEX.

Mr. Du Bois is a former member of Timex Sinclair EBZUG, Berkeley, CALIFORNIA.

```
5 REM *** QWIKSORT ***
7 REM_BY COURTNEY DU BOIS
                    9 FAST
               10 LET N=1000
15 DIM K(N)
20 FOR E=1 TO N
30 LET K(E)=INT (RND*100+1)
40 NEXT E
                          GOSUB 1000
STOP
                50
                 50
          1000 REM INITIALIZE STACK
          1004 LET S=IN
1006 DIM L(S)
1008 DIM U(S)
                                                         ((LN N)/(LN 2))
                                        5=INT
          1009
                          REM STACK ENTIRE ARRAY
       1009 HEM STHICK ENTIRE HR

1010 LET T=1

1020 LET L(T)=1

1030 LET U(T)=N

2000 REM SORT

2005 REM STACK EMPTY?

2010 IF T THEN GOTO 2040

2020 PRINT "DONE"
2020 PRINT "DONE"
2030 RETURN
2035 REM UNSTACK BOUNDARY INFO
2040 LET L=L(T)
2050 LET U=U(T)
2050 LET T=T-1
2065 REM HNTTHING IN SUBSET?
2070 IF U<=L THEN GOTO 2010
2090 GOTO 2070
3000 REM PARTITION SUBTABLE
3010 LET I=L
3020 LET J=U
3030 LET K=K(I)
4000 REM DEMPARE MOVE LEFT
4010 IF K>=K(J) THEN GOTO 4040
4030 GOTO 4010
4030 GOTO 4010
4030 GOTO 4010
4030 REM HAVE KEYS CROSSED?
4045 REM RESTORE KEY
4050 LET K(I)=K
4060 GOTO 6000
4070 LET K(I)=K(J)
4080 LET I=I+1
5000 REM COMPARE MOVE RIGHT AND
UNTCH OUT FOR RIGHT EDGE
5010 IF K<K(I) OR I>=N THEN GOTO
       5010 IF K<K(I) OR I>=N THEN GOTO 5040
         5020 LET I=I+1
5030 GOTO 5010
5040 IF J<=I THEN GOTO 5080
5045 REM SUAP PND MOVE RIGHT
          5050 LET K(J)=K(I)
5060 LET J=J-1
5070 GOTO_4000
          5075 REM RESTORE KEY
5080 LET K (J) =K
5090 LET I=J
         5090 LET I=U

6000 REM STACK: LARGER SUBSET

6010 LET T=T+1

6020 IF I-L (U-I THEN GOTO 6070

6025 REM STACK LEFT SUBSET

6030 LET L (T) =L
         6040 LET U(T)=I-1
6050 LET L=I+1
          5050 GOTO 6100
           6065 REM STACK RIGHT SUBSET
6070 LET L(T)=I+1
           6080 LET U(T)=U
6090 LET U=I-1
           6100 RETURN
```

FROM THE AUGUST 1987 CATS N/L

T\$2968 in's and Out's

In developing an analog joystick using the ZIP compiler, I found that the routine included in the instructions for reading the joysticks is silly. The same machine code is produced by the compiler with the BASIC functions and is usable by the BASIC interpreter with:

3000 OUT 245, 14: LET K= IN(246 + player * 256)

Notice then to read the left joystick:

3000 OUT 245, 14: LET K= IN 502

The right joystick:

3000 OUT 245, 14: LET K= IN 758

And perhaps most importantly both joysticks at the same time:

3000 OUT 245, 14: LET K= IN 1014

That is:

3000 OUT 245, 14: LET K= IN (246 + 3 * 256)

The joysticks are effectively ORed. This could make for some interesting games.

James Jones 2242 Locust Amarillo, TX 79109 Amarillo TSUG

FROM THE AUGUST 1987 PLOTTER N/L OF CLACKAMÁS COUNTY, OREGON.

COLOR-GRAY SCALE
POKE numbers 1-54 into 23693
with a FOR-NEXT loop to get all
colors/grays.
To get BRIGHT add 64 to each
number, FLASH add 128, and together add 192.

IN DEFENSE OF PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE by PETE FISHER

FROM THE CHICAGO AREA T/S GROUP N/L

-=Shareware/Fairware=-

A fairly new phenomena which has emerged in recent years is the concept of Shareware, also called Fairware or Freeware. In this case, the program is freely exchanged among users, as long as it's accompanying "commercial message" remains intact. This message simply states, "If you liked this program and found it useful, please send \$X.00 to the author at:(and gives the address). Many people, of course, never pay. They end up missing out on updates, corrections, bug "fixes" and good quality DOC's. This is the main advantage of Fairware over normal PD. It's a living, ongoing thing with support.

The most famous T/S Fairware author is Jack Dohaney. He calls his enterprise, "Jack's Fairware" and he's currently offering over 20 titles. You can get his latest catalog by sending a S.A.S.E. to Jack at: 390 Rutherford Av./Redwood City, CA 94061. My personal favorites are his MSCRIPT upgrade (which I'm using to write this) and the RLE Decoder/Encoder program called QRL-the best available at this time.

Jack describes Fairware this way, "FAIRWARE is..CONDITIONAL public-domain user-supported software that is NOT exactly free. FAIRWARE costs whatever the USER feels is a fair price for what he or she received.

"The MAIN IDEA behind Fairware is that support is a two-way street: user and author should support each other, for their mutual benefit..."

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3-D WIRE FRAME GRAPHICS By Tim Swenson

The program listed below allows a person to define a 3-D object, draw it on the screen, and rotate it in three different

planes.

The heart of the program lies in how the object is represented. Two arrays hold the information for the object. An vertex array (list) holds all of the vertices. An edge array (list) holds the two endpoints of the edges. The edgel array refers back to the vertex list for the actual points. It only holds the number of the vertex.

Lines 100 to 1030 in the program holds the definition of a cube and some values for variables used by the program. Look at the diagrams and the the two lists to see how the cube is defined. More complex figures will take more information.

The center of the cube is (0,0,0). This can be changed by the user. The variables XX, YY, and ZZ define the center that the user chooses.

There are four procedures in the program. They are treated as keywords. To display the object the user can type in directly, or in a program, DISPLAY3D. ROTX, ROTY, and ROTZ rotate the object in radians held by the variable ROT. The program says that ROT is 20, its wrong. It should be in radians, like PI/10. Just to refresh your memory PI/2 is 90 degrees.

When a rotation procedure is called the object is spun in the axis defined. Since the Z axis is pointing out of the screen, rotating the object will make it appear to spin like it is on a turntable and you are looking down on it. I hope this is clear.

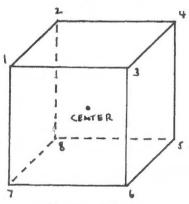
The variable D2 changes how

large the object is on the screen. The larger the number the smaller the object.

When you run the program as it is, nothing appears to happen. All it has done is to load the array with the data and set up the variables. Type ROTX, ROTY, and then DISPLAY3D. You will now see the cube at an angle.

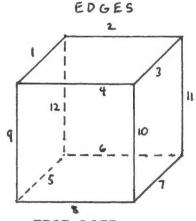
Have fun with the program. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Its hard to summarize a lot of material in a short article.

VERTICES



VERTEX LIST

1 = (-1, -1, 1)	2=	(-1, 1, 1)
3 = (1, -1, 1)	4=	(1, 1, 1)
5 = (1, 1, -1)	6=	(1,-1,-1)
7 = (-1, -1, -1)	8=	(-1, 1, -1)




```
100 DIM vertex(100,3)
110 DIM edge(200,2)
190 RESTORE
200 READ xcenter, ycenter
210 READ d1, d2, rot
220 READ xx, yy, zz
230 READ vertexcount
240 FOR loop = 1 TO vertexcount
250 FOR loop2 = 1 TO 3
260 READ vertex(loop, loop2)
270 NEXT loop2
280 NEXT loop
290 READ edgecount
300 FOR loop = 1 TO edgecount
310 READ edge(loop, 1)
320 READ edge(loop,2)
330 NEXT loop
1000 DATA 40,40,1,10,20
1010 DATA 0.0.0
1020 DATA 8,-1,-1,1,-1,1,1,1,-1,
-1, 1, -1
1030 DATA 12,1,2,2,4,4,3,3,1,7,8
,8,5,5,6,6,7,7,1,6,3,5,4,8,2
9000 DEFine PROCedure rotz
9010 FOR loop = 1 TO vertexcount
9020 x1 = vertex(loop, 1)*COS
(rot)-vertex(loop,2)*SIN(rot)
9030 y1 = vertex(loop, 1)*SIN
(rot)+vertex(loop, 2)*COS(rot)
9040 vertex(loop,1) = x1
9050 vertex(loop,2) = y1
9060 NEXT loop
9090 END DEFine rotz
9100 DEFine PROCedure roty
9110 FOR loop = 1 TO
vertexcount
9120 x1 = vertex(loop, 1) *COS
(rot)-vertex(loop, 3) *SIN(rot)
9130 z1 = vertex(loop, 1)*SIN
(rot)+vertex(loop,3)*COS(rot)
9140 vertex(loop, 1) = x1
9150 vertex(loop, 3) = z1
9160 NEXT loop
9190 END DEFine roty
9200 DEFine PROCedure rotx
9210 FOR loop = 1 TO
 vertexcount
9220 y1 = vertex(loop, 2)*COS
(rot)-vertex(loop, 3)*SIN(rot)
9230 z1 = vertex(loop, 2)*SIN
(rot)+vertex(loop,3)*COS(rot)
9240 vertex(loop, 2) = y1
9250 vertex(loop,3) = z1
```

```
9260 NEXT loop
 9290 END DEFine rotx
 9300 DEFine FuNction transx
  (x, d1, d2)
9305 LOCal xprime
 9310 xprime = (x*d2)/d1
 9315 RETurn xprime
 9320 END DEFine transx
 9330 DEFine Function transy
  (y, d1, d2)
 9335 LOCal yprime
 9340 yprime = (y*d2)/d1
 9345 RETurn yprime
9350 END DEFine transy
9400 DEFine PROCedure
  display3d
9405 CLS
 9410 FOR loop = 1 TO edgecount
9420 LET point1 = edge(loop, 1)
9430 LET point2 = edge(loop,2)
 9435 LET x1 = vertex(point1,1)
  - xx
 9440 LET x1 = transx(x1, d1, d2)
 9445 LET x2 = vertex(point2,1)
 - XX
 9450 LET x2 = transx(x2, d1, d2)
 9455 LET y1 = vertex(point1,2)
9460 LET y1 = transy(y1,d1,d2)
 9465 LET y2 = vertex(point2,2)
 - уу
9470 LET y2 = transy(y2,d1,d2)
9480 LINE x1+xcenter, y1+ycenter
 TO x2+xcenter, y2+ycenter
9490 NEXT loop
 9495 END DEFine display3d
```

You're invited to the . . .

NW TIMEX/SINCLAIR MINI-FAIR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1987

9:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

Seattle Masonic Temple 801 E. Pine St., Seattle, WA

Seminars-Dealers-User Groups
Door Prizes-Demonstrations

\$3.00 - Under 12 Free

(206) 324-0110 for info.

PUG NEWS

by Walt Gaby

I missed the June meeting. But George Mockridge was kind enough to pitch in and report on it.

Since June, there have been two meetings. Here is a brief report on each of them.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

At the July meeting, Norm Lehfeldt made a plea for help in putting out the newsletter. If you want to make a contribution, please let him know!

Norm also led a discussion on the idea of sponsoring a T/S Computer Faire in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bob Orrfelt is looking into possible facilities.

Jack Dohany indicated that he would like to see a workshop which reviewed programming languages other than BASIC. As examples, he mentioned FORTH, Assembly, Pascal, C, Turtle, and DLAN.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

At the August meeting, there was more discussion on the proposal for a T/S Computer Faire. Group consensus felt that Silicon Valley would be the best location. Bob gave a summary report on his findings regarding facilities.

Jack Dohany demonstrated his new font program...it is terrific!!! If you are interested, call Jack at (415) 321-7684.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Next meeting date: SEPTEMBER 20. See you there!!!

Sinclink

New GUTS/SV Workshop meetings. GUTS/SV is starting a workshop meeting program on Mednesday nights when the regular meeting at 'Star by the Sea' Catholic Church in Alviso is not scheduled. These meetings will be held at members houses for people interested in special projects the member holding the meeting is working on. Check Andy's BBS for the schedule. First meetings will be:

1% Terry Greenlee ... TS Displays

2% Carl Rink A real TS Flight Simulator

New newsletter subscription rates. \$15 per year for everyone, to help pay for the new Software library projects which are now available to all subscribers.

1 GUTS/SV news:

8* 870826 meeting at Alviso 'Star by the Sea' Catholic Church. Meeting Attendees: Dliver Chaplin, Mark & Natalie Mahl, Terry Greenlee, Andy Hradesky, Bill Miller. ** Mark Wahl demoed his 128 column display for the TS2068 on Andy's Momochrome Monitor. It looked pretty readable.

\$88 Andy Wradesky demonstrated the Game 'PHASOR' on the TS1500 and the TS1510 Command Cartridge Adapter (loaned by Bob Orrfelt) and the Command Cartridge program 'Flight Simulator'.

program 'right simulator'.

Bill Miller demonstrated Mark Wahl's new program 'Pl', which prints the first sector of each Waładrive file to the TS2040 printer, the Waładrive Centronics Port, or a Waładrive DATA file to easily find out what each program on the Wafer is (in case you can't figure it out from the File Name). It also prints the sectors in Last In First Out (LIFO) order so that the newest files are printed out first. Thanks to Mark for putting this program in the GUTS/SV Library. Maybe he will do a program like this for the other TS Mass Storage Devices?

** Melcome to new Subscriber Mel Richardson of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Mel found out about us from the 'Subscribe to TIMELINEI/Sinclink!' classified ad in TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE 8705/06 P40.

Thanks to renewing subscribers Dave Means of Fremont, Ca and Jim Wheeler of San Jose, Ca,



IMELINEZ___

September:

19 Sunday 1:00 P.M.

Peninsula Users Group

24 Thursday 7:38 P.M.

East Boy ZX81 Users Group

Call Russ English for location

30 Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

Silican Valley Group

Star of the Sea Church, Alviso

October:

17 Sunday 1:00 P.M.

Peninsula Users Group

Peninsula Hospital, Burlingame

22 Thursday 7:30 P.M.

East Bay ZX81 Users Group

Call Russ English for location

28 Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

Silicon Valley Group

Star of the Sea Church, Alviso

November:

21 Sunday 1:00 P.M.

Peninsula Users Group

Peninsula Hospital, Burlingame

Important Notice:

Due to Thanksgiving on Thursday

November 26, East Bay and

Silicon Valley meetings may be

cancelled or changed. Call one

of the officers for late info.

Is it time to renew your membership?

EBST BBY ZBD USER GROUP 5 8 Z 8 3

3128 KING STREET

BERKELEY, COLIFORNIA 94703

(Woods McPheeter's)

CONTACT:

PMSS ENGLISH (415) 465-3116

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M. MEETINGS:

CALL RUSS ENGLISH FOR DETAILS ON

MEETING PLACE.

MAKE CHECKS FOR BUES PRYDULE TO "WOODY INCPREETERS".

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DALY CITY, CHLIFORNIA 94015

(415) 878-1773

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PRESIDENT: RITH CARR, (488) 738-2888, X-4579

LAST NEDWESDAY OF EACH MONTH - 7:00 P.M. MEETINGS:

CFOR LOCATION OF MEETINGS SEE ACCOMPANYING SUSTING HEUS.)

MAKE CHECK FOR BUES PRYRELE TO "STINKLINK".

THIS TIMELINEZ NEWSLETTER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE THREE TIMEX-SINCLAIR USER GROUPS IN THE S.F. BRY BREA.

HER MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS BELCOME!

FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP (INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN GROUP MEETINGS, THE MENSLETTER, PROGRAM LIBRARY PRIVILEGES AND SPECIAL EVENTS) SEND \$15 ANNUAL DUES TO ONE OF THE ABOVE ABORESSES WITH THE CHECK PRYNBLE AS INDICATED.

READERS OUTSIDE THE SAN FRANCISCO DAY AREA MAY SUBSCRIBE TO THE HERSLETTER ONLY BY SENDING A CHECK FOR \$10 TO ONE OF THE MEDDE FROMPS.

John Ezike has reminded me that there are a number of members in each group who are a little behind in their dues. Fifteen bucks isn't very much to support club activities for a year, so check your status and cough up if it's your turn. Also out of town subscribers are re-minded that they need pay only ten bucks a year to continue receiving 'TIMELINEZ.'

George Mockridge has forwarded a clipping from a recent issue of Investor's Daily with the headline 'Sinclair to re-enter British Market. There are about three sentences describing the Z88 -- the new Sinclair toptop. Pardon me for saying so, but it appears that this machine is lurching on to the market in the same way as the QL — Months and years of advance hype, repeatedly delayed introductions, promised features omitted from machines finally delivered, etc.

I am curious enough to buy one when they arrive, but I am still asking the question; will Sir Clive be remembered as a man who had ONE really great idea -the ZX812

I am sorry to have to report that plans for a T/S Fest in the Bay Area in 1988 appear to have fallen through. Those of us who have been working on the plan have reluctantly concluded that none of us as the time free to devote to the project that it would require.

Bob Orffelt is to be commended on all of his efforts in gathering and presenting options to the members of our ad hoc committee.

Maybe another year.

I have one other unpleasant duty -- it is to report that this is the last issue of 'TIMELINEZ' that I will be editing.

Increasing pressures at work and some personal obligations mean that something has to go and I'm afraid that 'TIMELINEZ' is it. I hope to be able to continue an occasional contribution to the newsletter and I urge you to do the same. It cannot continue unless we all participate.

As of this writing, no new editor has been selected. I am very/sorry that I could not have continued as editor for a longer period.

If I may, I'd like to offer a word of advice on behalf of the next editor; everyone who con-tributes to 'TIMELINEZ' should be aware of the editor's reshould quirements and attempt to accomodate them. The assembly of diversely formatted material is a very time-consuming part of the editom's job. Editors will tast longeriais we all make their job easie87.

NHL

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EBZBG: John Ezike

PMG: George Mockridge

SWSTWG: Bill Miller

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PHG:

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N/L Exchange: Rita Carr

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Donald S. Lambert 3310 Clover Drive S.W. IA 52404 Cedar Rapids